

## Media Advisory

### World renowned sand sculptor Pedro Mira from Portugal Clinches Inaugural Sentosa International Sand Sculpting Championship



*Portugal's Pedro Mira beats 13 other international sand sculptors to score the Golden Shovel Award at the inaugural Sentosa International Sand Sculpting Championship*

**SINGAPORE, 31 AUGUST 2017** – Portugal's Pedro Mira has been crowned the winner of the Sentosa International Sand Sculpting Championship this evening, beating 13 other internationally-acclaimed sand sculptors to clinch the Golden Shovel Award and cash prize of USD 5,000.

Speaking about his win, Pedro said, "When I was given the theme of imagination, I thought about something that was important to me. In my life, one of the biggest emotions I have had is a broken heart. I imagine everyone has, at a certain point in their lives, a broken heart. So I wanted to represent that through my sand creation."

The winning sculpture, titled "Broken Heart", depicts an intricately-carved organ that represents the strongest muscle in one's body, synonymous with how imagination is the strongest tool one's mind can possess. It was chosen by a panel of four judges comprising globally-renowned Singapore sand artist JOOheng Tan; Mr Tan Hee Teck, Chief Executive Officer, Resorts World Sentosa; Mr Ignatius Low, Head of Media Solutions, Integrated Marketing, Singapore Press Holdings; and Mr Quek Swee Kuan, Chief Executive Officer, Sentosa Development Corporation (SDC).

The sand sculptures were judged based on criteria including concept, design, originality, three-dimensionality of the works, as well as carving technique. Togo's Bob Atisso and Poland's Wiaczeslaw Borecki were presented with the Silver Shovel Award (and USD 2,500) and the Bronze Shovel Award (and USD 1,500) respectively.

"Each of the sand sculptors who participated in this competition had a unique style. Through their sand sculptures, we get to see and appreciate a variety of sand sculpting techniques. The winning sculpture stood out for its strong creative concept with sculpting elements that provoke deep thoughts for the audience," said JOOheng Tan.

The competition saw 14 world-renowned sculptors, hailing from 13 nations across the world, coming together to showcase their creative sand works centred on the theme, 'Imagination'. From ancient legends to ways of our modern life, these artists skilfully transformed the fluid medium of sand into creative pieces of art, each telling its own story or a cause to rally up to. The sculptors spent a total of 28 hours over three and a half days to create these works of art.

Catch the sculptures at **Sentosa Sandsation 2017**, a three-week sand sculpture festival taking place at *The State of Fun* from 1-17 September 2017. Apart from the competition sculptures, guests at the exhibition will also get to witness more than 20 other large-than-life sand sculptures that showcase Singapore's unique blend of culture, humour, quirks and colloquialism, as well as one-of-a-kind art pieces by JOOheng Tan.

**Sentosa Sandsation 2017** is open from 10am – 9pm daily and admission to the event is free. From 4-10 September 2017, Singapore residents will also enjoy free entry to Sentosa with a waiver of charges for the Sentosa Express monorail and gantry fees for cars, as well as free rides on Sentosa's on-island cable car line which brings guests directly to the Siloso Point Station where the event is. The free cable car ride starts from the Merlion Station at Imbiah (opposite the Sentosa Express Imbiah Station). For more information, please visit [www.sentosa.com.sg/sandsation](http://www.sentosa.com.sg/sandsation).

Photos of the event will also be uploaded to <http://sentosa.link/sandsationalfun2017>.

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#### About Sentosa

Sentosa is Asia's leading leisure destination and Singapore's premier island resort getaway, located within 15 minutes from the central business and shopping districts. The island resort is managed by Sentosa Development Corporation, which works with various stakeholders in overseeing property investments, attractions development, and operation of the various leisure offerings and management of the residential precinct on the island.

The 500-hectare island resort is home to an exciting array of themed attractions, award-winning spa retreats, lush rainforests, golden sandy beaches, resort accommodations, world-renowned golf courses, a deep-water yachting marina and luxurious residences – making Sentosa a vibrant island resort for business and leisure. Making Sentosa its home, too, is Singapore's first integrated resort, Resorts World Sentosa, which operates South East Asia's first Universal Studios theme park.

Situated on the eastern end of Sentosa Island is Sentosa Cove, an exclusive oceanfront and residential enclave bustling with some 2,000 homes, romantic quayside restaurants, retail and specialty shops. The Island is also proud to be home to Sentosa Golf Club and its two acclaimed golf courses, The Serapong and The New Tanjong. Sentosa Golf Club hosts the SMBC Singapore Open and the HSBC Women's Champions, featuring some of the world's best golf professionals.

Welcoming a growing number of local and international guests every year, Sentosa is an integral part of Singapore's goal to be a global destination to work, live and play. For more information, please visit: [www.sentosa.com.sg](http://www.sentosa.com.sg).

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**Editors' Note:**

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(or <https://app.box.com/v/sandsationalfun2017>), and credit them to "Sentosa Development Corporation".